

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28177 271059Z

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ACTION IO-13

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NESCO

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, US, XA

SUBJ: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF AFRICA

1. U.S. PERMDEL WAS APPROACHED BY UNESCO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FROM U.S. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY SATELLITES OVER AFRICA WHICH ARE IN POSSESSION OF USG. SIMILAR APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE TO SOVIET PERMDEL.

2. THIS REQUEST HAS ITS ORIGIN IN THE REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF A GENERAL HISTORY OF AFRICA, WHICH MET FEBRUARY 5 - 11, 1975, IN FEZ, MOROCCO. THE BUREAU HAD STATED THAT AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF AFRICA WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND "HOPED THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO WOULD APPLY TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE USA AND THE USSR WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING FROM THEM THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY SATELLITIES WHICH WERE IN THE POSSESSION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES."

3. ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU'S REPORT (SHC-75/CONF.601/3), THESE PHOTOGRAPHS CONSTITUTED DECLASSIFIED INFORMATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST FOR AFRICA AND "IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 28177 271059Z

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COMMITTEE, WOULD BE A HIGHLY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENDEAVOURS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH WHICH THE COMMITTEE WAS SEEKING TO CARRY FURTHER."

4. FURTHERMORE, THE BUREAU SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE PHOTOGRAPHS WOULD BE SECURED, TRAINING COURSE IN READING AND INTERPRETING THEM BE ORGANIZED TO ENABLE AFRICAN SPECIALISTS TO BE TRAINED IN THE READING OF SUCH DOCUMENTS.

5. PERMDEL AGREED TO PASS ABOVE SECRETARIAT REQUEST ON TO WASHINGTON AND TO INFORM UNESCO ABOUT USG RESPONSE.

6. COMMENT: IF POSSIBLE, PERMDEL WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE BEFORE OCTOBER 15, I.E. CLOSURE OF EXBD MEETING. WE ANTICIPATE THAT PROF. KI-ZERBO, EXBD MEMBER FROM UPPER VOLTA, WHO ALSO MEMBER OF THE BUREAU OF ABOVE COMMITTEE, WILL RAISE SUBJECT MATTER WITH DR. KAMM, US BOARD MEMBER.
RUSH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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